

## Childhood Lead Poisoning

A child who looks and acts healthy can have lead poisoning. The only way to know that a child has lead poisoning is by performing a simple blood test. The HHLPPP collects these test results to monitor lead poisonings around the state and to ensure poisoned children receive appropriate services. While no safe blood lead level in children has been identified, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health action be taken at any blood lead levels 5 µg/dL and above.

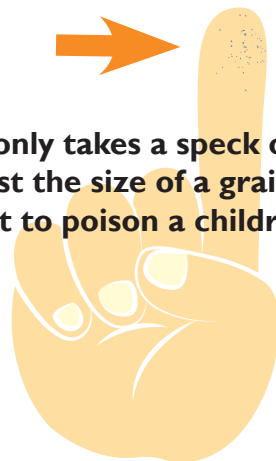
In 2015, only 16.8% of New Hampshire children under the age of 6 were tested for lead poisoning

16.8%



660 New Hampshire children were identified with lead poisoning in 2015 and received care coordination from the HHLPPP

It only takes a speck of lead dust the size of a grain of salt to poison a children



An estimated 40% of NH's school-age children have had an elevated blood lead level at some point in their lives



1 in 3 lead poisoned children lives in a home that was renovated in the past 6 months

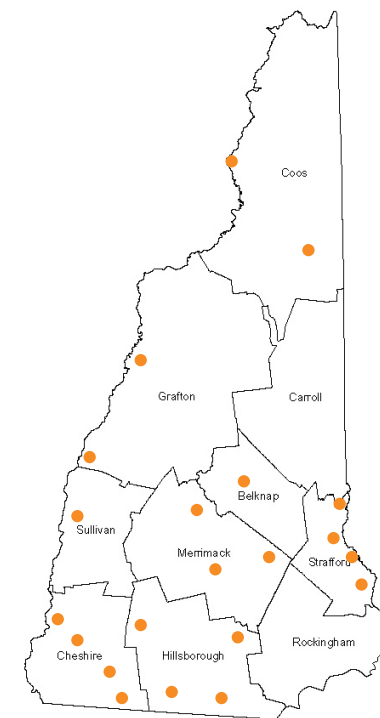


NH Department of Health and Human Services, Special Medical Services is a program for children with special health care needs who have, or are at risk for, a chronic medical condition, disability or special health care need. Children with special health care needs require health and related services of a type beyond that generally required by children.

34% of children receiving Special Medical Services who were tested were lead poisoned, compared to 4% of children statewide.

4% 34%

## New Hampshire's 21 Highest Risk communities include:



Antrim  
Berlin  
Claremont  
Concord  
Dover  
Franklin  
Greenville

Haverhill  
Keene  
Laconia  
Lebanon  
Manchester  
Nashua  
New Castle

Pittsfield  
Rindge  
Rochester  
Somersworth  
Stratford  
Troy  
Walpole

## What to do

1. **Test all one and two year olds for lead.**
2. **Hire a licensed lead inspector** to find out if your home has lead hazards.
3. **Use an EPA "RRP Certified" contractor** who understands how to use lead-safe work practices when renovating or repairing your home.
4. **Regularly wash** hands, toys, bottles, pacifiers, floors, windowsills, and other areas where leaded dust may settle.
5. **Be careful that you don't bring home lead dust** from your job site or hobby.
6. **Check if you qualify for a lead grant** to cover some of the costs of removing lead from your home.

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For more information, see the full 2015 Lead Exposure Surveillance Report at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/publications.htm> or contact HHLPPP at (800)897-LEAD.

### References

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/>  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/clpp/publications.htm>  
<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>  
[http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments\\_Advocacy/Fact%20Sheets/Lead-Poisoning-Fact-Sheet.pdf](http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments_Advocacy/Fact%20Sheets/Lead-Poisoning-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHILDREN WERE  
POISONED BY LEAD  
IN 2015  
660  
OPEN TO LEARN MORE



8352  
**Healthy Homes & Lead  
Poisoning Prevention Program**  
Division of Public Health Services  
State of New Hampshire  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301



## 2015 LEAD POISONING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Lead poisoning is entirely preventable. However, nearly 1 million children living in the United States have blood lead levels high enough to impair their ability to think, concentrate, and learn.

The most common source of lead exposure for children today is lead paint in older housing and the contaminated dust and soil it generates. New Hampshire has the oldest housing of anywhere in the United States. The developing brains of young children are especially vulnerable to lead contaminated dust and soil. The damage to a child's brain caused by lead poisoning can be permanent.

The NH Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (HHLPPP) works to address the risk of lead poisoning and other health and safety issues that stem from the home environment. As part of this mission, the HHLPPP collects data on blood lead levels of children and adults across the state in order to target resources towards high risk communities and populations.



New Hampshire has the oldest housing of anywhere in the United States, with 62% of its homes built before lead-based paint was banned in 1978.

Children exposed to even low levels of lead can have learning disabilities, lower IQ, speech and language delays, hearing loss, increased aggression, impulsivity, behavior problems, poor school performance, and failing test scores.

